



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

City of San Diego
Planning & Development Review
Building Development Review
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Building Newsletter 3-11

Exhaust Duct Requirements for Clothes Dryers in Residential Occupancies of Nonrated Construction

Interpretations of State and Local Building Codes
1998 California Building Code: Chapter 3
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When a clothes dryer is connected to a moisture exhaust duct, Section 504 of the Mechanical Code requires that it be installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. See Building Newsletter 7-7 for additional information concerning shaft requirements.

I. Clothes Dryer Exhaust Ducting

When dryer exhaust ducting is to be installed during building construction the following requirements shall be followed in the absence of recommendations provided by the product's manufacturer.

- A. The maximum allowable length of 4-inch-diameter smooth metal duct is 14 feet, including two 90-degree elbows.
- B. Two feet shall be deducted for each 90-degree elbow in excess of two.
- C. Dryers located on the uppermost floor may be exhausted through the roof using only one offset at the point of exit from the dryer. Smooth metal ducts having a diameter of four inches, or other duct shapes having the same equivalent duct area, must be used.
- D. Flexible duct materials may be extended for a maximum length of six feet, regardless of whether or not the flexible duct is part of an exhaust system or is the entire system.
- E. Joining of flexible ducts is not approved.
- F. Connections between flexible and rigid ducts must be made by placing the flexible duct outside the rigid duct.
- G. Flexible ducts are not permitted in concealed spaces.
Exception: Plastic pipe may be placed within in concrete slabs.

II. Venting Requirements

Regardless of whether or not manufacturer's instructions are supplied, the venting requirements below must be adhered to:

- A. A clothes dryer moisture exhaust duct shall not be connected to a gas vent connector, gas vent or chimney.
- B. Ducts for exhausting clothes dryers shall not be connected or installed with sheet metal screws or other fasteners which will obstruct air flow.
- C. Moisture exhaust ducts shall terminate on the outside of the building and shall be equipped with a back draft damper.
- D. Lint screens shall not be installed at the duct termination.